

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 04245 152232Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9241

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 4245

STATE ALSO FOR LA/MRSD (GEORGE PHILLIPS) AND ARA/RPP (JOHN O'GRADY)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, ES

SUBJ: EMBASSY RECEIVES REPORTS THAT AIFLD REPRESENTATIVE MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE BY GOES

REF: SAN SALVADOR 4108

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT RICHARD OULAHAN, AIFLD REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS BEEN HERE SINCE JULY 17, MAY BE ASKED BY THE GOES TO LEAVE, PERHAPS BY THE END OF THIS WEEK. ONE REPORT RECEIVED BY EMBASSY IS THAT, DESPITE OULAHAN'S CONSULTATIONS WITH GOES ADVISORS TO UNION COMUNAL SALVADORENA (UCS), SOME MEMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES ARE VIEWING WITH SUSPICION HIS ACTIVITIES WITH UCS. OTHER REPORTS INDICATE CONCERN OVER MANNER IN WHICH OULAHAN IS CARRYING OUT HIS MISSION, RESULTING IN QUESTIONING OF HIS ACTIVITIES AND MOVES TO HAVE HIM OUSTED.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH OULAHAN ON AUGUST 15, POLITICAL OFFICER AND LABOR OFFICER TOLD OULAHAN ABOUT THE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT HE MIGHT BE DEPORTED THIS WEEK. OULAHAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 04245 152232Z

RISK BUT WAS GOING TO CONTINUE ON AS BEFORE. POLITICAL OFFICER SAID THAT AS MUCH AS THE EMBASSY WOULD WANT TO HELP, THERE WAS LITTLE IT COULD DO IF OULAHAN, GIVEN THE FACT THAT HE IS HERE ON A TOURIST VISA, WAS SUDDENLY ASKED BY THE GOES TO LEAVE. OULAHAN SAID HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT FROM THE BEGINNING.

3. POLITICAL OFFICER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A SITUATION IN WHICH OULAHAN WAS EXPelled BECAUSE OF ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO AND APPROVED BY THE GOES COULD WELL SET BACK THE CASUE OF UCS AND AIFLD FOR YEARS. OULAHAN SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AS WELL AND HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET APPOINTMENT WITH SUBSECRETARY OF LABOR THAT MORNING TO DISCUSS HIS ACTIVITIES AND STATUS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF HIS MOVEMENTS.

4. COMMENT. WHILE EMBASSY DOES NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO BE ALARMIST, IT IS CONCERNED THAT CONTINUING REPORTS OULAHAN MAY BE DEPORTED SHORTLY MAY WELL HAVE A CERTAIN VALIDITY. THERE ARE MANY ELEMENTS IN SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY WHO STILL REGARD AIFLD'S PAST ACTIVITIES WITH SUSPICION. THESE SAME ELEMENTS, ALREADY PRE-DISPOSED AGAINST AIFLD, MAY BE ALL TOO WILLING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OULAHAN'S ACTIONS (ESTABLISHMENT OF A SIZABLE BANK ACCOUNT IN HIS NAME, HIS ATTEMPTS TO ARRANGE SEMINARS FOR UCS, HIS EFFORTS TO RECRUIT STAFF, AND HIS OTHER HIGHLY VISIBLE ACTIVITIES IN LABOR FIELD) TO SAY HE IS IN VIOLATION OF HIS TOURIST VISA. VISIT ASAP OF SAN HADDAD (SUGGESTED BY HADDAD IN TELECON WITH POLITICAL OFFICER ON AUGUST 14) TO CLARIFY THESE AND OTHER ISSUES CONCERNING OULAHAN'S STATUS AND ACTIVITIES WOULD BE CONSIDERED USEFUL BY THE EMBASSY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 04245 152232Z

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